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NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

upon the

Health and Sanitary Conditions

of the

NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES  
RURAL DISTRICT

for the

Year ended 31st December, 1956



NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORT

upon the

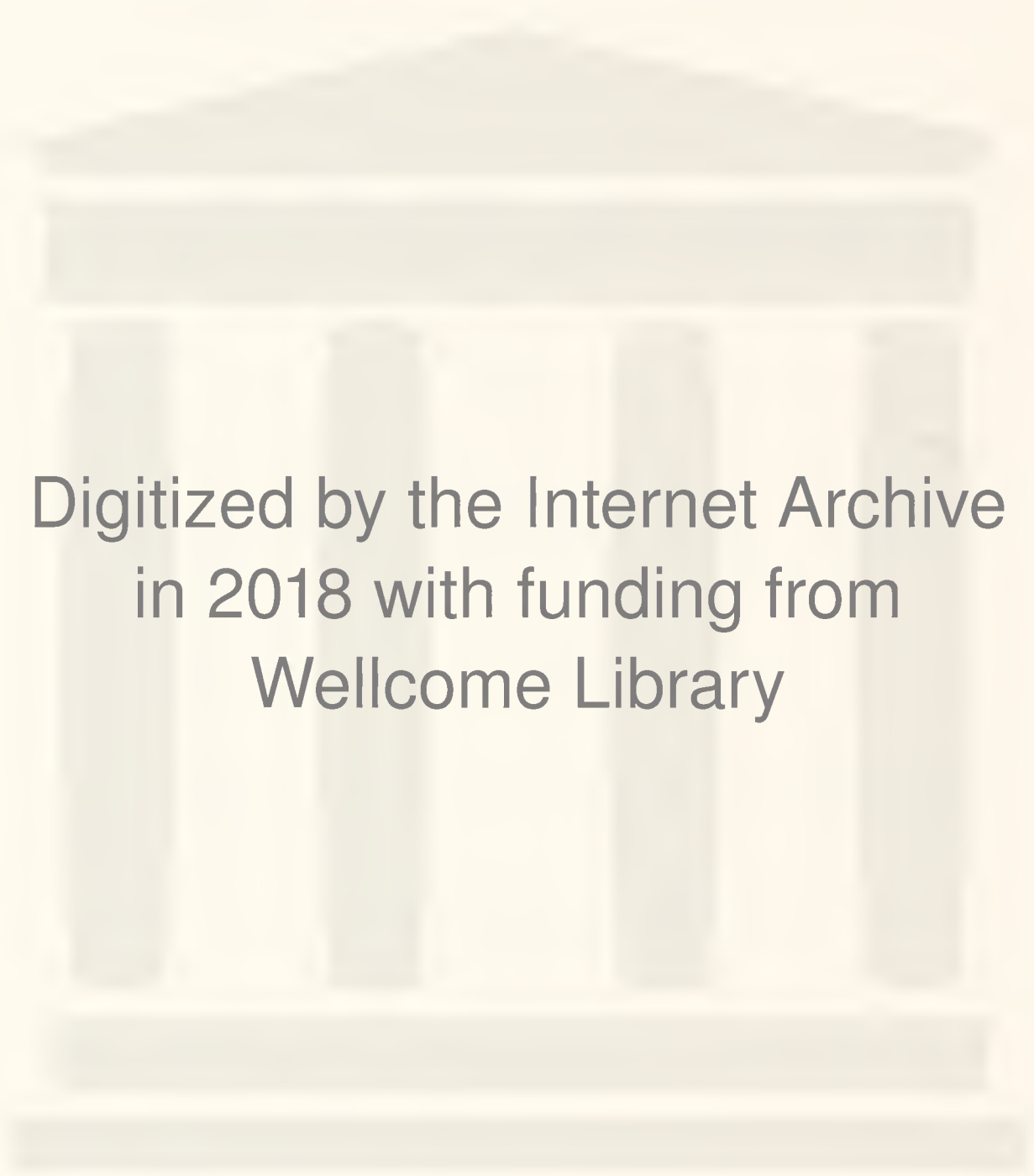
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# Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health 1956

*To the Chairman and Members of Norham and Islandshires  
Rural District Council*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1956 regarding the health and sanitary conditions of the district.

The estimated mid-year Home Population has again dropped this year by a total of 50 and this trend has now persisted for six years. The number of births also fell, from 52 in 1955 to 46 in 1956 giving a rate of 10.79 per 1,000 of the population, against the national rate of 15.

A drop in the number of deaths was more satisfactory, representing a decrease of 6 between 1955 and 1956 and producing a rate of 12.21 per 1,000 population compared with 11.70 for England and Wales.

Two deaths were caused by lung cancer, accounting for 28.57 per cent. of male cancer deaths. The national average is 30.77 per cent.

Another increase was recorded in the number of infants dying under 1 year of age. Five were registered compared with 3 in the previous year. This rate of 108.7 per 1,000 live births is the highest recorded for over 20 years (Table 3), and must be related to the national rate of 24.9. Four of the deaths occurred within the first two weeks of life and in only 1 case was there a possibility of prevention.

I am pleased to report that no stillbirth was registered.

The infectious diseases during the year were quiescent, although 1 case of tuberculosis was notified.

The attack on Poliomyelitis commenced this year by the inoculation of 25 children from the district with the British Vaccine. It is hoped that, like diphtheria, this crippling disease will become practically extinct.

Lack of adequate sewerage systems at Cornhill and Holy Island has retarded the house building programme and, in consequence, slum clearance.

Finally, may I express again my appreciation of the kindness I have received from the Chairman and members of the Health Committee, and also my gratitude to Mr. Senior and Mr. Peters for their help during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,



Medical Officer of Health.



## GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district is 47,011 acres.

The number of inhabited houses is 1,500.

The rateable value is £31,685 and the sum represented by one penny rate is £127.

The estimated mid-year population is 4,260 and this figure is taken when calculating the Birth and Death rates.

## VITAL STATISTICS

### Live Births :

				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	22	21	43
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	2	3
				23	23	46

Birth rate per 1,000 of the population ... 10.79

### Still Births :

Legitimate	...	...	...	—	—	Nil
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	Nil

### Deaths of Infants under One Year :

Legitimate	...	...	...	1	4	5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
				1	4	5

### Deaths of Infants under 4 Weeks :

Legitimate	...	...	...	1	3	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
				1	3	4

All infants (per 1,000 live births) ... 108.7

Legitimate infants (per 1,000 legitimate births) 116.3

Illegitimate infants ... Nil

### Deaths :

	Male	Female	Total	
	28	24	52	
Death rate per 1,000 of the population	...	...	...	12.21
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer	...	...	...	9
Deaths from Measles	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea	...	...	...	Nil

TABLE 1

## ESTIMATED POPULATIONS, 1937 TO 1956

1937 .....	4,596	1947 .....	4,480
1938 .....	4,556	1948 .....	4,590
1939 .....	4,540	1949 .....	4,510
1940 .....	4,565	1950 .....	4,590
1941 .....	4,567	1951 .....	4,470
1942 .....	4,567	1952 .....	4,451
1943 .....	4,513	1953 .....	4,390
1944 .....	4,335	1954 .....	4,380
1945 .....	4,225	1955 .....	4,310
1946 .....	4,446	1956 .....	4,260

TABLE 2

INFANT MORTALITY DURING YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup>  
DECEMBER, 1956

Causes of Death :

	Where Death occurred	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	1 month
Prematurity	... Hospital	3	—	—
Pulmonary Atelectasis :				
Congenital Meningo- myelocoele and Talipes				
Equino-Varus	... Hospital	—	1	—
Cardiac failure :				
Broncho-Pneumonia	Home	—	—	1
Totals ...		3	1	1

TABLE 3

*BIRTH RATES AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES*  
1935 TO 1956

			Birth Rate per 1,000 population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births
1935	...	...	12.69	81.96
1936	...	...	15.08	84.50
1937	...	...	12.61	68.96
1938	...	...	9.21	—
1939	...	...	11.44	39.20
1940	...	...	16.20	13.50
1941	...	...	14.67	59.50
1942	...	...	17.29	25.30
1943	...	...	16.39	27.02
1944	...	...	16.60	—
1945	...	...	14.67	—
1946	...	...	18.01	75.00
1949	...	...	13.08	50.80
1950	...	...	11.54	18.80
1951	...	...	16.77	26.60
1952	...	...	14.38	15.56
1953	...	...	14.80	15.30
1954	...	...	12.77	17.80
1955	...	...	12.06	57.69
1956	...	...	10.79	108.7
1947	...	...	16.74	26.60
1948	...	...	15.68	55.40



TABLE 4

## CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis (Respiratory) ... ..	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Other) ... ..	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease ... ..	—	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections ... ..	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	1	—	1
„ „ „ Lung ...	2	—	2
„ „ „ Breast ...	—	—	—
„ „ „ Uterus ...	—	—	—
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ... ..	4	2	6
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ... ..	—	—	—
Diabetes ... ..	—	—	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	—	4	4
Coronary Disease, Angina ... ..	5	2	7
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	—	—	—
Other Heart Disease ... ..	5	4	9
Other Circulatory Disease ... ..	2	3	5
Influenza ... ..	1	—	1
Pneumonia ... ..	—	1	1
Bronchitis ... ..	—	1	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	2	—	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	—	—	—
Nephritis, Nephrosis ... ..	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate ... ..	1	—	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations ... ..	—	—	—
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	4	6	10
Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..	—	1	1
All Other Accidents ... ..	—	—	—
Suicide ... ..	—	—	—
Homicide and Operations of War ...	—	—	—
	28	24	52

TABLE 5

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	9
Diphtheria	...	...	—
Measles	...	...	5
Pneumonia	...	...	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...		—
Acute Poliomyelitis		...	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	—
Dysentery	...	...	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...		—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	—
Smallpox	...	...	—
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	—
Enteric Fever	...	...	—
Erysipelas	...	...	—
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	...		1

TABLE 6

## TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS, 1947 TO 1956

Year	New Notifications	Year	New Notifications
1947	2	1952	—
1948	4	1953	2
1949	7	1954	4
1950	6	1955	—
1951	5	1956	1

# Annual Report of Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

**1956**

Gentlemen,

In accordance with the provisions of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations, 1935-51, I herewith submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1956.

## NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Public Health Act, 1936 :

Part Two. Sanitation and Buildings	...	...	50
Part Three. Nuisances	...	...	7
Part Four. Water Supplies	...	...	60
Part Five. Notifiable Diseases	...	...	0
Total Visits, etc.	...		117

Housing Act, 1936 :

Part Two. Inspection of Insanitary Houses	...	...	125
---	-----	-----	-----

Housing Act, 1949 :

Part Two. Section 20. Improvement Grants			
Visits in connection	...	...	40

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 :

Visits in connection with Infestation and Administration	...		10
--	-----	--	----

Petroleum Consolidated Act, 1928 :

Visits in connection with storage of petrol	...	...	32
---	-----	-----	----

Total ... 324

Other Visits and Inspections :

1. Council House Repairs	...	...	210
2. Tradesmen re above	...	...	38
3. Building Bye-laws	...	...	50
4. Town and Country Planning Act	...	...	40
5. Miscellaneous Visits, Interviews, etc.	...	...	30
Total	...		368

Total Visits, Inspections, Interviews, etc. ... 692

Number of Notices served during the Year :

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	11
Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	0

Water Samples for Analysis :

	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Chemical	5	5	0
Bacteriological	4	3	1

# PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	Type of Property				
	Non-Agricultural				Agri- cultural
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All Other (including Business Premises)	Total of Cols. 1, 2 and 3	
1. Number of properties in district ...	7	1508	253	1768	133
2. Number of properties as a result of					
(a) Notifications	—	8	—	8	2
(b) Survey under the Act ...	7	1500	253	1760	131
(c) Otherwise (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	—	—	—	—
3. Total inspections carried out, includ- ing re-inspections	7	1508	253	1768	133
4. Number of properties inspected (in Sec.2) which were found to be infested by :					
(a) Rats ...	5	151	8	164	13
(b) Mice ...	—	155	12	167	42
5. Number of infested properties (in Sec. 4) treated by L.A.	5	270	—	275	4
6. Total treatments carried out includ- ing re-treatments	5	270	—	275	4



## COMMENTARY

### REFUSE COLLECTION :

Since the adoption of this scheme in 1946, the work each year steadily increases, as a result of the increased number of receptacles due to the post war building incidence of new houses, and the reconditioning and modernising of old properties. Despite this, the service has been adequately maintained.

### FENWICK WATER SUPPLY SCHEME :

This scheme, installed to give an adequate piped water supply to the Fenwick and Beal Districts, became operational during June this year. In the main, it is a satisfactory and plentiful supply, but occasionally the water is heavily discoloured by deposits of iron drawn from the Borehole. Although this trouble is intermittent, on occurrence, it is unpleasant for consumers, and there does not appear to be an effective means of treatment at an economical cost.

### SEWERAGE SCHEMES :

The Ministry Inquiries for (a) the Cornhill sewerage scheme was held in June, 1956, and for (b) the Holy Island Sewerage Scheme in November, 1956, but at present approval is still awaited. Both villages urgently need the works installed. The present system at Holy Island is continuously giving serious trouble and is, especially during the Summer months, grossly overloaded.

### PUBLIC CONVENIENCE :

During May, 1956, the Public Convenience at Holy Island was opened, to the immense satisfaction of visitors and residents alike, and has been maintained excellently by the Attendant despite occasional vandalism by some persons, fortunately a minority of the numerous users.

### PLANS :

During the year 55 plans were deposited with the District Council. All were approved.

### MEAT INSPECTION :

There is one private licensed Slaughterhouse in the District catering for a scattered country trade. Throughout the year the hygienic standard of the premises and the quality of the meat have been commendably high.

Animals Slaughtered.—Cattle, 106 ; Pigs, 22 ; Sheep, 186.

### ICE CREAM :

There are 8 premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream, but no premises for manufacture and sale. In all of the 8 premises registered for sale, only pre-wrapped ice cream is sold.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,



Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

52, Ravensdowne,  
Berwick-upon-Tweed.







